



APPROVED MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE AGING IN COMMUNITIES COMMISSION  
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 124  
October 16, 2025 - 6:00pm

The October 16, 2025 meeting of the Aging in Communities Commission was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Blesoff.

**Roll Call: .**

Marc Blesoff	Present
Monika Robinson	Absent
George Bailey	Present
Evelyn Clay	Absent - Excused
Carl Spight	Present
Linda T Francis	Present
Melissa A Avila	Present

**Staff present:** Cassandra L Adediran

**Agenda Approval:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Comm. Bailey and seconded by Comm. Francis. All were in favor.

**Minutes Approval:** Motion to approve minutes from the September 11, 2025 meeting, with necessary corrections, was made by Comm. Francis and seconded by Comm. Bailey. All were in favor.

Comm Robinson arrived immediately before the non-agenda public comment.

**Non-Agenda Public Comment:** John O'Brien, Action - comment in support of recognizing ageism as a public health issue and putting action behind it.

**Old Business:**

1. ACE Project update – Comm. Francis gave the updated on the ACE project which is a collaboration with several individuals and organizations in Oak Park, along with Dr. Becca Levy. The ACE team has been working to set up 15 groups of seniors to learn and discuss concepts around aging. They hope to complete the sessions by early December. There will be a review of the data and hopefully the AIC will use the information to suggest policies and ideas for community projects. The groups are being asked to create community projects regarding ageism which they want to address in the community. There is logistical and financial support through the project. The parallel group is the control group in Forest Park.

2. Workplan 2026 - Comm Francis presented a draft of the 2026 Workplan. Discussions centered around the objectives and strategies, projects, outcomes, time frame, and costs.

Board Study session – It was suggested that Chief Officer for DEI, Kellye Keyes, guides the conversation around the study session with the Board. Comm Bailey asked the question about the role of the Chief DEI Officer and its purview. Comm Francis wants more understanding on Kellye’s role. Chair Blesoff suggested that the members address Kellye Keyes when she attends the next meeting. Chair Blesoff would like to see the village create a position about age equity. The questions are what in Kellye’s job duty, will specifically look at ageism.

The commission discussed their need to meet with the village staff which is responsible for the housing plan. A main focal point for the commission is whether or not there is consideration for the needs of seniors when building new housing. The commission will decide if they want to partner with the Disability Access Commission (DAC) to focus on health, housing, or neighborhood services to advocate to Neighborhood Services. Chair Blesoff offered clarity that the role of the commission is to advise and/or suggest, but not come up with, specific programs. Comm. Francis and Comm. Robinson spoke otherwise saying that commission is to help raise awareness of the issues that the commission would like the village to address. Chair Blesoff offered that if there is a commissioner interested in the housing issue then they should come with specific info so that they can talk about it as a commission. The commission should focus on the things that they know that they can do and put them on the plan.

It was suggested that the people from Mills Tower come to the AIC’s meeting for public comments so that actions can be taken such as what was done with Heritage House.

Comm. Robinson mentioned the Nomination awards and that the AIC may want to look at to highlight ageism. Awards are presented to individuals and organizations who represent what the commission tries to achieve.

Conversations continued about the approach to fine tune the workplan. Comm. Francis and Comm. Robinson agreed to work together to fine tune the draft work plan and send it to Chair Blesoff to facilitate the distribution to all members. The commission needs to make a decision on the contents of the work plan during the next meeting.

Dementia Friendly (DF) Oak Park – Comm Robinson will be on the agenda to present info on the DF plan to the commission and the staff liaison for dissemination.

3. Day In Our Village of Oak Park – The commission will have DIOV on the work plan for 2026.
4. Ageism Awareness Day – Recap: on 10/9/2025, the AIC sponsored a program featuring Dr. Becca Levey as the speaker for Ageism Awareness Day at Pilgrim Congregational Church. The event was successful. The luncheon was at the Village Hall with Village

leadership. The Board passed a proclamation for Ageism Awareness Day for 2025. Comm. Francis commented on the success of the luncheon and the cooperation of the Village staff and is looking forward to doing more. The AIC thanked the Village's staff for their support. Comm. Bailey commented that the attendance of the group leaders from the ACE Project strengthened the call to action for ageism. Comm. Aviles commented that she and her guests learned a lot about activities which turned into actionable items outside of the aging population group.

5. Intergenerational public art project will be referenced as Anti-ageism public art project. Comm. Bailey was asked if the undertaking is something that the commission will want to do. Commission members were informed that a public art project is being pursued by the ACE Becca Levy study.
6. Two (2) additional programs/speakers? – The commission will discuss further for next year.

**New Business:**

1. Change Commission meeting day – The Commission needs to clarify the availability of the staff liaison and will table this item until there is clarity.
2. Strategic plan for aging in Oak Park – The Commission will continue to develop this activity in conjunction with the continued efforts of the work plan.
3. Full-time position – Chair Blesoff will assist with this item.

**Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn to was made by Comm. Bailey and seconded by Comm. Robinson. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:57p.m.